

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

DDI-0374/84/1

2 JUL 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Hugh Montgomery  
Director, Bureau of Intelligence and Research  
Department of State

SUBJECT: Treatment of Foreign Students in Cuba

1. This memorandum responds to your request for an Agency study on the treatment of foreign students in Cuba. Your request was stimulated by a child's letter supplied to the Department by the "United Front for the Liberation of Ghana," which reported that foreign students in Cuba were being mistreated. [redacted]

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2. The 1983 DDI research paper you cited, The Cuban Educational Assistance Program: An Investment in the Third World, contains the most up-to-date intelligence analysis we have on Cuba's "Isle of Youth" program, which subjects foreign elementary and high school students to a rigorous regimented curriculum of education and physical labor. From an intelligence perspective, we believe that additional source material and a fresh analytical look would simply confirm the earlier description of the "Isle of Youth." [redacted]

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3. For your special purposes, there may be better information available. The international press has reported students' rebellion against forced labor, poor food, and the harsh regimen. Reports of hard work and production quotas have no doubt filtered back to countries from which students come and may be available to Foreign Service officers in such places as Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Nicaragua. One of your officers, Gerard Gallucci, with whom my analysts maintain contact, recently visited the "Isle of Youth" and may have additional insights on conditions there. [redacted]

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[redacted]  
Richard J. Kerne  
Acting Deputy Director for Intelligence

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